



# THE RARA RAG

Newsletter of The Rochester Amateur Radio Association, Inc.  
Founded in 1931

VOL. 65

June 2013

NO. 10

## If it's June it must be time for Field Day!

By Gary Skuse, KA1NJL  
Vice President, RaRa

### News Flash: YES, there IS a June meeting!!!

The amateur radio service is provided with valuable RF spectrum because the FCC sees us as a reservoir of trained operators, technicians and electronics experts. We provide value to the public as a voluntary noncommercial communication service, particularly with respect to providing emergency communications. While that sounds like a mouthful of government mumbo jumbo, and it is because I took it from Part 97, it is true. Every day when each of us communicates with our friends on various bands and using various modes, we are indeed honing those invaluable skills.

Each year during the fourth weekend of June more than 35,000 amateurs in the US and Canada practice for emergency communications by setting up their gear in public places, often away from the mains, so that they can communicate with each other and with hams from around the world. Despite the serious nature of emergency communications, Field Day has become an annual semi-contest event and an opportunity to get out and have fun with our fellow amateurs. At the next RARA meeting Jon Dickason, N2JAC, is going to talk about his involvement in Field Day and share his experiences with us. I have known Jon to be active in the local ham radio community for more than 25 years and he has proven himself to be technologically savvy, always willing to help promote the hobby, and an all-around nice guy.

Please join us on Friday June 7<sup>th</sup> at 7:00pm in the Henrietta Fire Company #1, located at 3129 East Henrietta Road, for what is certainly going to be a fascinating look at Field Day.



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## RARA Meeting June 7th, 7PM

Henrietta Fire Co. #1  
3129 East Henrietta Rd. (15A)



## The Prez Sez

By Bill Marinucci, WB2GHC  
President, RaRa

It's Hamfest time! **The RaRa Ham-O-Rama 2013 will be held on Saturday, June 15<sup>th</sup>, on the RIT campus in Henrietta, NY.** It will be held in parking lot "S" which is directly adjacent to the Global Village and the Crossroads Café. There will be signs posted and volunteers to point you to the right location once you are on campus. Ham-O-Rama 2013 will open at 7:00 AM and run until?? Please don't arrive too early, as this contributed to a traffic jam last year and I want to avoid a repeat. This outdoor event will mainly consist of "tailgating," or flea marketing... an opportunity to buy or sell some ham radio treasures. There is always something that you might want, or something that you want to part with from a previous hamfest.

Admission has been lowered to \$5.00, and is free to current RaRa members. **BE SURE TO BRING YOUR RaRa MEMBERSHIP BADGE WITH YOU!** You will be able to join or renew your membership at the RaRa table in the Crossroads building. Spaces in the flea market are \$5.00 per parking space utilized. Sell from your trunk, or bring a table, etc., to display your wares as no tents or tables will be provided. The main door prize this year is a \$500 gift card! You do not have to be present to win. You will be able to purchase additional raffle tickets as well. Free VE testing will also be available, so this is a great time to get your first license, or upgrade to General or Amateur Extra.

Did I mention that there will be awesome food available as well? This year's menus include Breakfast (7am - 10am): Breakfast Sandwiches, Bagels, Donuts, Breakfast Pizza, Coffee, etc. The Lunch Menu (11am - 3pm) offers: Burgers, Hot Dogs, Grilled Chicken, Philly Steak w/ Peppers & Onions, and everyone's favorite... Pizza. The On-site Mini-mart will be open from 7am - 3pm and offers a wide variety of snacks and beverages, including fresh fruit, juice, milk, and ice cream. So where do you sit down to eat? Global Village offers tables, chairs, and even umbrellas (the umbrellas are to shade you from the sun, not rain, as I have asked for a sunny day!) Global Village is very conveniently located to all the activities, and a great place to get off your feet, enjoy some food, and chat with other hams. RIT prohibits any open flames, etc., on the grounds, so please leave your grills at home. This is for everyone's safety and we all need to adhere to RIT rules.

The talk-in station for this event is the N2MPE repeater, on 146.61 (-), and the PL tone 110.9 Hz. The talk-in station will be hosted by RIT students who will assist you both to and around the RIT campus. Be sure to give them a shout!

I am looking forward to seeing you there, and I know you will have a great time at Ham-O-Rama 2013! Bring your family, bring your friends, bring a potential new ham, and of course, bring yourself!

## Calendar of Events

**June 7 RaRa General Meeting**  
7:00 PM - Henrietta FD #1  
3129 E. Henrietta Rd

**June 12 RaRa Board of Directors**  
5:30 PM, RIT Engineering  
Hall, Room 2110

**June 15 Ham-o-Rama 2013**  
RIT parking lot "S"



# Rochester HAM-o-Rama!

## The RARA Memorial Scholarship

This annual award is given to a licensed Amateur Radio operator pursuing a degree at any accredited post-secondary school. The individual must be a member of RARA and a resident of New York State. The award is for one individual for one year, but the recipient may reapply for subsequent years. Download a [RaRa Scholarship Application](#) here.

Please answer all questions on the application completely. If any question is not applicable to your situation, enter N/A in the blank. Feel free to use annotated addendum sheets to explain your responses more fully. This award is based on a combination of need, scholastic achievement, contributions to Amateur Radio, extra-curricular activities and community involvement. All information provided on the application will be held in the strictest confidence. No personal information will be released without the approval of the applicant.

The deadline to submit your application is **June 15, 2013**, so please do not procrastinate in completing the application and getting it mailed in! The winner of the Rochester Amateur Radio Association Memorial Scholarship will be announced in July, 2013.

Please submit all applications to:  
**Rochester Amateur Radio Association**  
Memorial Scholarship Committee  
P.O. Box 93333  
Rochester, New York 14692-8333

## VE News

By Ken Hall W2KRH

We had 19 Successful candidates in April with 14 Technician, three General and two Extra licenses earned. The next session will be at the Ham-O-Rama in June, and following that the testing will resume on September 21st.

Dean	Clayton	KD2DYM	T
Joanne	Dickens	KD2DYN	T
Michael	Druzynski	KD2DYO	T
Andrew	Hollister	KD2DYP	T
Theodore	Llewellyn	KD2DZA	T
William	Luss	KD2DYR	T
Scott	Mann	KD2DYS	T
Steven	Mellen	KD2DYQ	T
Michael	Schutterop	KD2DYT	T
Nico	Schutterop	KD2DZB	T
Betsy	Tascione	KD2DYU	T
Natalie	Tascione	KD2DYV	T
Wendy	Tascione	KD2DYW	T
David	Timmons	KD2DYX	T
Paul	Mulford	KD2DCB	G
Mitchell	Palermo	KD2DKB	G
Gary	Pannone	KD2BQV	G
Jerome	Glick	KB3ZMP	E
Gilbert	Magee	W5GIL	E

## RaRa LOGO Items



Don't feel left out- get your RaRa logo items today!

[\(Click here to shop now!\)](#)

## Silent Keys

**Clyde A. Parker**  
WB2EOC  
May 13, 2013

**Helen E. Marcoff**  
Ex-WA2HEI  
May 19, 2013



## Ham Radio Featured on WYSL

By Bill Kasperkoski WB2SXY

I had a great hour long meeting recently hashing over ham radio and other war stories with Corporal Tim Thornton, who hosts a radio program on WYSL (1040 AM & 92.1 FM) Avon-Rochester: "The Military Exchange." The show aired on Saturday, May 11th, 7am, and on Sunday May 12<sup>th</sup>. Tim's interest in ham radio through the 'friend-of- a-brother-of-a-friend' —isn't that the way ham radio works?— concerned ham radio operators' ability to function, send messages and support our community even when the main communications infrastructure fails. This is right up 'Ham Radio Alley', so I could not refuse Cpl. Thornton's offer to be interviewed on his show for broadcast. WYSL will have the interview archived for several weeks according to Tim.

Even the entry level Technician options of reliable local, public service, emergency, and long-haul international communications, at the power levels and modes that we are authorized, makes Ham Radio a Star that's easy to discuss. Cpl. Thornton now realizes that we can talk for hours about the many aspects of Ham Radio: The country's best kept secret.



## Go Right to the Source!

By Bill Kasperkoski WB2SXY

Go to the source for a correct answer when you have a question about RARA. Asking a question on an email reflector, Facebook or a chat room MAY get you a lot of opinions, but your best and most correct response will be from a RARA Officer. See the webpage at [www.rochesterham.org](http://www.rochesterham.org). This holds many correct answers, too.

The Rochester Amateur Radio Association is seriously committed to our community and members through our many Education, Public and Emergency Service endeavors. RARA offers training and educational scholarships every year. If your organization or group, whether youth, veteran, home-school or special services, would like to explore the benefits of ham radio communications and what it offers, let RARA know. Send an email to our Secretary, Mr. Len Crellin, KC2PCD [Secretary@rochesterham.org](mailto:Secretary@rochesterham.org) to see how our group programs and presentations may dovetail with your organization.

### For Questions about:

- Membership Application, Roster, Call Changes: Lisa Schramm K2BGR [membership@rochesterham.org](mailto:membership@rochesterham.org)
- Public Service Events: Joe Walker KA8WJH [PublicService@rochesterham.org](mailto:PublicService@rochesterham.org)
- Monthly Program Activities: VP Gary Skuse KA1NJL [vicepresident@rochesterham.org](mailto:vicepresident@rochesterham.org)
- Articles, Sample Rag, Subscriptions: Kevin Carey WB2QMY [Editor@rochesterham.org](mailto:Editor@rochesterham.org)
- Web Content: Frank Schramm WB2PYD [webmaster@rochesterham.org](mailto:webmaster@rochesterham.org)
- Club Comments, Suggestions, Logo Items: Secretary Len Crellin KC2PCD [Secretary@rochesterham.org](mailto:Secretary@rochesterham.org)
- Donations, Scholarship, Treasurer: Ken Hall W2KRH [Treasurer@rochesterham.org](mailto:Treasurer@rochesterham.org)
- Ham-o-Rama: [HFProducer@RochesterHam.org](mailto:HFProducer@RochesterHam.org)
- Club Station Trustee, Calls: Jim DiTucci [jim.n2ixd@gmail.com](mailto:jim.n2ixd@gmail.com)
- RARA History: Ed Gable K2MP [egable@rochester.rr.com](mailto:egable@rochester.rr.com)
- RARA Email Reflectors: Bill Kasperkoski WB2SXY [wb2sxy@arri.net](mailto:wb2sxy@arri.net)
- When All Else Fails, get a hold of our President: Bill Marinucci WB2GHC [President@rochesterham.org](mailto:President@rochesterham.org)

While Ham Radio, even with its electronics, antenna design, wireless training, math and communications theory will not turn you into an engineer, and may not get you a job, either, your license will open many doors to learning and experiences for career advancement or personal enrichment.

If you are already licensed, consider how managing a 700-member 501(c)3 non-profit will look on your resume. Every job in RARA accepts management shadows. RARA can provide a large friendly audience so you can practice just about any skill by emailing the Secretary, Mr. Len Crellin, KC2PCD  
[Secretary@rochesterham.org](mailto:Secretary@rochesterham.org)

## Social Networks

By Duane Fregoe K2SI

The Rochester Amateur Radio Association is on all the popular social networks. The Facebook page currently has 316 likes. The Google+ page has 31 people with RARA in their circles. 12 people are following RARA on Twitter. What gets posted is links to weekly ARRL notices, local club meetings, local events, VE testing sessions, and upcoming hamfests in Western New York. The links for all three sites are in the sidebar.

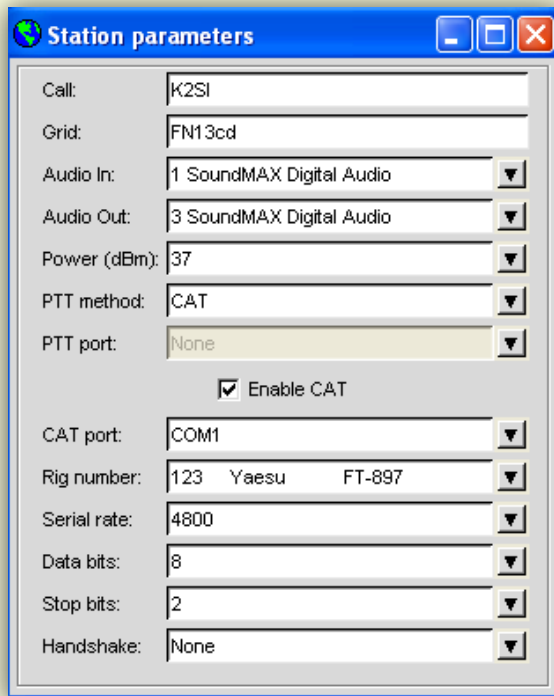
## Ham Tech – WSPR 2.0

By Duane Fregoe K2SI

WSPR is short for Weak Signal Propagation Reporter and is pronounced “whisper.” From the User Guide, “The WSPR software is designed for probing potential radio propagation paths using low-power beacon-like transmissions”. Besides that, it is a cool way to get your call sign on an Internet-based map. If your shack is currently set up to run RTTY, PSK-31, or a multitude of other digital modes then WSPR will take little effort.

The first place to start is the WSPR web page at

<http://physics.princeton.edu/pu/lsar/K1JT/wspr.html> where you will find the WSPR 2.0 software download and the WSPR 2.0 User's Guide. Install the software and print the User's Guide as it will be very helpful with the setup. The first thing you will need to do is set up your station parameters. This graphic shows my setup for a Yaesu FT-897.



Station parameters	
Call:	K2SI
Grid:	FN13cd
Audio In:	1 SoundMAX Digital Audio
Audio Out:	3 SoundMAX Digital Audio
Power (dBm):	37
PTT method:	CAT
PTT port:	None
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Enable CAT	
CAT port:	COM1
Rig number:	123 Yaesu FT-897
Serial rate:	4800
Data bits:	8
Stop bits:	2
Handshake:	None



<https://www.facebook.com/rochesterham>



<https://plus.google.com/118424200734775979541>



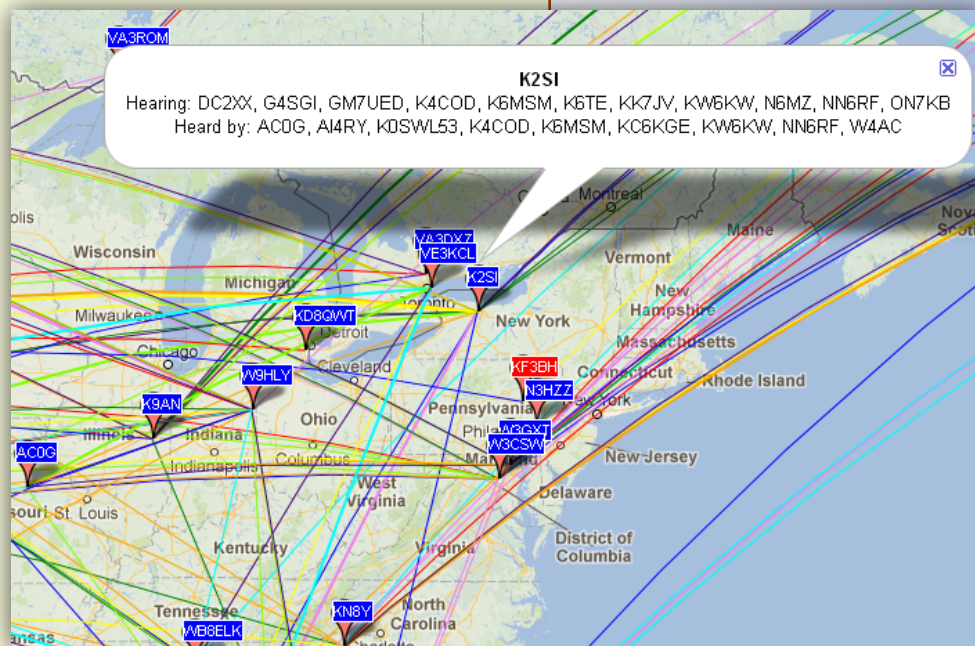
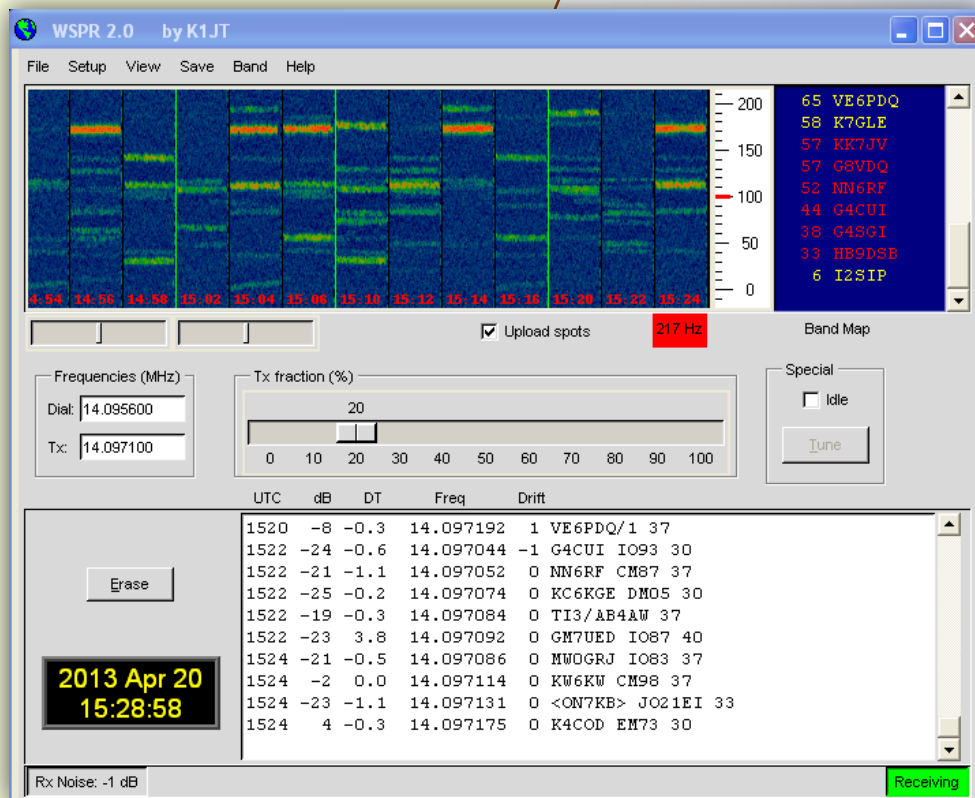
<https://twitter.com/rochesterham>

You can test your settings with some sample WSPR signals that come with the program. Next you can select the band from the menu option. If you enabled CAT control, the frequency on the radio should automatically adjust. If not, then spin the dial to the frequency you see in the WSPR program. Your computer must be synchronized with an Internet time service to +/- 1 second. The User Guide lists a service you can use.

On the screen is an option to upload your "spots" that WSPR will pull out of the noise. Go to <http://wsprnet.org/drupal/>, create an account, and click on Map at the top of the page. At the bottom of the map you can select the band you want to see. If your WSPR is receiving and sending correctly then your call sign will soon appear on the map.

Key points to remember are to set your radio transmit power to 5 watts, set your radio to digital, and use USB. Hope to see your call sign on the WSPRnet map.

**Could this be the perfect radio for WSPR? It runs USB-only; no Lower Sideband...**





# RaRa Rags of the Past

By Ed Gable, K2MP  
RaRa Historian

## 20 Years Ago, June, 1993

The June RaRa meeting left its usual venue and format to celebrate the end of the 92/93 season with a picnic at Powder Mills Park. The elections for the coming season were held last month with the following results: President Keith Freeberg N2BEL, VP Roger Harnaart WB2BWQ, Secretary Jim Hood N2HHV and Treasurer Dick Goslee K2VCZ. To the Board of Directors: Lloyd Caves WB2EFU, Neal Eckhardt WB2EKP, Ed Holdsworth N2EH, Joe Hood K2YA, George Muller WA2IEO, Alex Piccirelli NV2Y and Chris Reich WB2DYJ. Lloyd Caves, WB2EFU, wrote his last "President's Corner" column and thanked his fellow officers and Board members for all of their hard work. RARRA selected and announced a very surprised Ray Pickens, WA2MYG, as their Amateur of the Year.

There must have been free give-a-ways at the RaRa classes as George AA2FO (SK) and Barbara AA2CX, announced that 45 applicants passed testing at the last RaRa testing session. Those were great numbers. Bruce Sidari WA2TMC, announced the opening of a new ham radio store on Route 31 in Albion. Bruce will be handling amateur equipment, coax, antennas, publications as well as operate a repair shop on site. With regret it was announced that Lee Stanley W2ECM and William Coyle KA2GMB, were Silent Keys. From the Want Ads you could buy a brand new offering of MS-DOS 4.01, in its original carton, from Irv Goodman AF2K. Ramsey Surplus Outlet Store, of 793 Canning Parkway in Victor was a commercial advertiser.

## 40 Years Ago, June, 1973

This issue spoke of the just completed Rochester Hamfest with over 2500 in attendance. This was the day that ARRL at Newington must have locked their doors as in attendance from ARRL were: President Harry Dannals W2TUK, General Manager John Huntoon W1RW, Atlantic Div. Dir. Harry McConagy W2SW, Hudson Director Stan Zak K2SJO, Canadian Director Noel Eaton VE3CJ, VHF Editor Ed Tilton W1HDQ, Lew McCoy W1ICP, Novice Editor Tom McCullen W1SL, and more. At the Banquet it was announced that Jim Collinsworth, WB2EDT, was selected as Amateur of the Year. Joan Vogt, WA2YTK, wrote to invite everyone to the RaRa Picnic to be held at Powder Mills Park. The Rochester VHF Group elected Charlie Mills, K2LDU as their Chairman with Ed Maher, WB2ZJY, and Otto Bluntzer, WB2RJB, as Vice-Chairman and Secretary.

Randy Hall, WA2AGE, wrote a very interesting and thorough report on one of the most energetic public service events to take place locally, the Hike for Hope. This event had 47 stations using VHF FM, HF SSB and SSTV where hikers could, at various places along the route, stop and see the hospital ship Hope anchored in South America. RaRa elected Bob Lauzon WB2NSD, as President along with Joe Hood K2YAH as Vice-President. Bill March, WA2CER, was voted Secretary and Len Gessin, WA2ZNC, handled the money. From the Want Ads you could have a free 60-foot wind mill tower from E. O. Seiler, W2EB. Just take it with you!

## the RaRa RAG

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### RaRa PICNIC — JUNE 12th POWDER MILLS PARK

RaRa's annual picnic will be held on June 12th, 1993, at Wadham's Lodge in Powder Mills Park. It starts at noon, and goes till... All 'goodies' — hot, salads, peanuts, chips, coffee, and soft drinks are furnished by the club. All members and their families are welcome, and there is no charge.

Powder Mills Park is located off route 96. The easiest way from Rochester is 490 East to the route 96 exit, then east on 96 to the park entrance. This is Park Road, and has a large sign indicating the park entrance. Follow Park Road (bear right at the Fish Hatchery) to the Wadham's Lodge sign. Turn left and up the hill to the lodge. A map is provided on the back page, or if all else fails, try 28/88 repeater for directions.

This is a great opportunity to make some 'eye-ball QSO's' and have a good time with the family. Hope to see you there!

### OFFICERS FOR 1993-94

President — Keith Freeberg, N2BEL  
Vice President — Roger Harnaart, WB2BWQ  
Secretary — Jim Hood, N2HHV  
Treasurer — Dick Goslee, K2VCZ  
Board of Directors:

Lloyd Caves, WB2EFU  
Neal Eckhardt, WB2EKP  
Ed Holdsworth, N2EH  
Joe Hood, K2YA  
George Muller, WA2IEO  
Alex Piccirelli, NV2Y  
Chris Reich, WB2DYJ

### SILENT KEYS

LEE W. STANLEY  
W2ECM  
April 18, 1993  
WILLIAM C. COYLE  
KA2GMB  
June 21, 1992

### KEEP US INFORMED!

If you change your address or call sign during the summer months, please notify the Membership Secretary, or call the RaRa 24-hour Message Line at (716) 442-0587. Thank You

### JUNE VHF CONTEST — N2WK MULTI-MULTI:

We want to work YOU. To try to make things easier for everyone and because there is no LOCAL CLUB COMPETITION, the N2WK team will START the contest on 2 METERS on 146.58 FM and try to work as many locals as possible before going to SSB and CW. Starting time for the contest is 2:00 p.m. local (1800 UTC) on Saturday, June 12. The Gannett Hill Gang would like to work EVERYONE locally who owns a 2 Meter radio. On Sunday the 13th we will again be looking for 2 Meter operators on 146.58 FM between 1:00 p.m. and 4:00 p.m. We hope this will appeal to those of you who wish to participate but don't have much time available.

We will be on Gannett Hill (Ontario County Park) again and doing our best to move up a few notches in the national standings. This contest has no club competition but we hope many of you can take a few minutes to look for us. Even though the activity is low don't forget to look around on other FM frequencies (146.49 and .55) to work other local stations participating in the contest. Hopefully this will allow us to maximize our FM contacts and allow other local stations to work 146.49 and 146.55 (the more popular frequencies) and will bring more participation.

As in the past, if you have some spare time and would like to see what it takes to put on a Multi operator, Multi transmitter contest effort, please come visit us during the weekend of June 12 and 13. The park is west off route 64, several miles south of the Bristol Mountain Ski Area. A real nice drive, a nice park and ham radio too! See you at 2 p.m. Saturday on 146.58.

The Gannett Hill Gang

## The RaRa RAG

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### 1973 Hamfest Report

Each year this report says the attendance at the WNY Hamfest and VHF Conference was higher than ever before. Such is the case again for the 1973 edition of the WNY Hamfest and VHF Conference.

The 1973 figures are not as dramatic an increase over previous years for one very specific reason...the weather. Hamfest morning was very dismal and rainy. However, just before noon, the rain stopped and the sun broke through the heavy clouds. The afternoon was also spotted with a few brief showers. So, with the weather as it was, possibly quite a few who had intended to come to the Hamfest changed their minds. So, attendance was just slightly over the 1972 mark of 2,500.

RaRa was honored by having many American Radio Relay League officials in attendance. They were: President, Harry Dannals, W2TUK; General Manager, John Huntoon, W1RW; Atlantic Division Director, Harry McConagy, W2SW; Hudson Division Director, Stan Zak, K2SJO; Canadian Division Director, Noel Eaton, VE3CJ; Ed Tilton, W1HDQ, retired VHF editor, QST; Lew McCoy, W1ICP, Novice Editor, QST; and Tom McCullen, W1SL, Assistant Technical Editor, QST. Although not on the pre-scheduled program, an A.R.R.L. Forum was conducted as a part of the program and was very well attended. In 1974, it will be a regular feature of the program.

At the evening banquet, Jim Collinsworth, WB2EDT, was named Amateur of the Year. The award was presented to Jim for his work in the upstate New York region during the Agnes flood period in June 1972.

Guest of Honor at the evening banquet was A. Prose Walker, W4BW, head, Federal Communications Commission, Amateur and Citizens Division. Prose gave an interesting talk about amateur radio and the F.C.C.

Next year, everything will be new at the Hamfest. We will have a new banquet hall, the Fairgrounds Dome. We will have two new meeting rooms in the Dome, and we will have a huge exhibit and flea market hall, double the size of the one used this year. Plan now for 1974. The date is May 11th.



Amateur of the Year plaque is presented to Jim Collinsworth, WB2EDT, right, by Harry Dannals, W2TUK, left, ARRL President and Harry McConagy, W2SW, ARRL Atlantic Division Director.

### June 9th - Annual RaRa Picnic

RaRa's annual club picnic will again be held at Rand Lodge in Powder Mills Park. Joan Vogt, WA2YTK, chairman of "Fun and Games", is preparing many activities for the junior ops. Joan will be assisted by Florence Kirkbright, WB2QZB; Onalee Gessin, xyl WA2ZNC; and Joyce Holdsworth, xyl WA2EKR. Games will start promptly at 3 P.M. - please have your children ready. There will be guessing contests, games, candy, door prizes, scavenger hunt, and of course balloons. There will be something for everyone. Picnic supper will follow including hot, salads, potato chips, soft drinks, and ice cream. Chow call will be at 5 P.M. Don't miss this great RaRa event - that's Saturday, June 9th - see you there!



# Scanner News: Callsigns

By Jim Sutton N2OPS [jim@otrym.org](mailto:jim@otrym.org)

Many of us remember listening to local police calls from Cobbs Hill Radio Center with the callsign KEA898. We could always count on the dispatcher to faithfully announce it with the time on the hour and half hour. Today there are no live announcements. The callsign KUJ753 is announced in CW. Nearly all stations today use an automatic CW identifier just like we use on ham repeaters.

Callsigns used on the scanner by land mobile stations consist of three or four letters beginning with K or W followed by three numerals. Unlike our ham call signs there is no geographic significance to the callsign prefixes.

That wasn't always the case. When I began listening to DX on my scanner I could nearly always narrow down my sporadic E, F2, or ducting DX with the prefix I heard. Callsigns beginning with KM\_ were from California such as KMA628 for Los Angeles County sheriff. KO\_ indicated west coast stations such as KOA777 Mohave County, Arizona or KOG634 Kent, Washington Fire.

Summer Sporadic E from the south began with KI\_ such as the continuous paging from Atlanta, GA KIG300 on 43.58. KA\_ was from the Midwest as we hear today on Missouri Highway Patrol on various 42 MHz frequencies.

Public safety stations are to announce their call every half hour, or at least once in every conversation. Some with multiple transmitters announce only a few times a day with a full roster of callsigns in the system. State Police Troop A on 155.505 announces their calls at midnight. Others have their own way to ID. The University of Rochester on 461.375 announces not only their callsign but frequencies as well at the beginning of each shift.

Needless to say few do this properly. This makes identification of interfering stations very difficult. Most land mobile users are not aware they need to ID their station. And some are not even aware they need a license. So, how do you look up a callsign you hear on your scanner?

## Current License Query by Callsign

[http://fjallfoss.fcc.gov/General\\_Menu\\_Reports/callsign.cfm](http://fjallfoss.fcc.gov/General_Menu_Reports/callsign.cfm)

## Site / Market / Frequency Query

[http://fjallfoss.fcc.gov/General\\_Menu\\_Reports/engineering\\_search.cfm?accessible=NO](http://fjallfoss.fcc.gov/General_Menu_Reports/engineering_search.cfm?accessible=NO)

If you listen with CTCSS or DCS sometimes the CW ID is carrier squelch (CSQ). That is, it does not have the encode function, so users of the system do not have to hear the ID.

Good to be back in the *RARA Rag*. Three hospital visits in a short time found me behind in many things.

Til next time, 73 to thee.



# CQ Field Day, CQ Field Day!

By Bill Hopkins AA2YV

Atop the gradual rise, eighty-eight or so third-gear bicycle pumps, south of our house on 109<sup>th</sup> Ave, SE in Bellevue, Washington, I could look south-southeast on a good day and see my Mount Rainier. To say it was tall would have been an understatement – it was then touted at 14,408 feet high. I was fourteen and my black Schwinn bike was paid for by the fabulous monthly take of \$25, thanks to my four-mile paper route for the *Seattle Times*. Down along Lake Washington I would ride, past the Slough, where, it was said, a locomotive had disappeared one weekend eons ago because it had been forgotten on a spur. There, just as I peddled round the bend every afternoon at 5 and underneath US Highway 10 (now I-90) I could still glimpse the Mountain, but only its peak. A hill stood in the way, one that then had no significance for me. Two or so miles distant, it was forested with tall Douglas firs and sported a balding top, with a lonely dead tree someone had dubbed “the crag.” That’s where, two years later, I would experience my first Ham Radio Field Day.



Here I was, a kid awash in cash, buying my own button-down paisley shirts, swishing every weekend on the Bellevue High Ski Team, and recently hooked on Ham Radio. Ken Geis and Bill Elliott, two high school geek friends had pulled me into the hobby. I already knew very well what Morse Code was, since Dad was a brass pounder from way back at the FAA. I remember my 5 minute code test practice for Novice at the Geis family kitchen table. (Mr. Geis had his impressive homebrew 2 meter mobile rig he used during his daily commute to Boeing field.)

What was Field Day, really? Was it essentially a camping weekend? I had already done plenty of that in the Boy Scouts. When I arrived up on that hill with Ken and Bill in June of '61, the antennas were already strung in the trees, the tents already staked down. Much more I don't remember. Except that there, in front of me, on a provisional table stood the object of my youthful lust, a Johnson Viking Ranger! I don't remember the receiver. It was probably a Hammarlund.



Since we kids didn't know much about how to tune up the final stage of this crazy expensive transmitter, we didn't dare change the sub-band. But it was like heaven. We could actually make QSO's on PHONE! We didn't really know how to chase stations or even how to listen closely. With little selectivity available – or used – we answered only the strongest CQs, and took joyous minutes to enter our “bags” into the paper log. (Where else would we have recorded the contacts?) We did try calling CQ ourselves, but with little luck. That must have been one heck-of-a-location, giving the signals a low takeoff angle. But I don't remember any 2, 3 or 4 calls. Chalk it up to inexperience.

We had great fun! The old-timers, those guys in their 30's and 40's who had cut their radio teeth at WWII venues, let us have our time at the switch. It was like being on Mount Olympus, conferring with the gods. Later, just before high school graduation, I bought myself a used Ranger and a tri-bander cubicle quad, with spreaders made of spruce. Dad bought a gas station tilt-over light pole I could use as a tower. I still hadn't mastered the finer arts of signal hunting; my National NC-125 receiver wasn't the best, but for me, ham radio was now the *summum bonum*.

Today, that large hill is called Newport Hills, amid the sprawl of Seattle's East Side suburbia. It would still make a great QTH for a low takeoff angle, provided you could get your neighbors to humor you with that mini-tower (not at all certain). You'd not have the room for an 80 meter stealth dipole. Mt. Rainier wouldn't be bad, though.

## ***RADIO FLASH MESSAGE: TAKE THE KIDS TO FIELD DAY!***

On June 22 – 23, you can see at least three local Ham Radio groups in Action:

- Rochester DX Association (W2RDX) will be at the Webster Park Off of Lake Road.
- Xerox Ham Radio Club (W2XRX) will be at Nazareth College off of East Avenue
- ARES/RACES will be at the Red Cross donation center in West Henrietta

Come out and observe and/or operate at one of these events! Remember to bring your ham license (billfold format will do). There could be even more Field Day stations; look for them!





## Monroe County ARES / RACES News

By Jim DiTucci, N2IXD

**FIELD DAY:** Monroe County ARES/RACES will operate W2EOC for June 22 - 23 Field Day activities. Set-up begins at noon and on-the-air operating begins at 2:00 PM Saturday, June 22, for 24 straight hours of operating fun. Participation is open and welcome to all Ham Radio operators and anyone else who wants to find out what Ham Radio is all about. Come for an hour. Come for 24 hours.

### 2013 Field Day Location:

American Red Cross  
West Henrietta Blood Donation Center  
825 John Street  
West Henrietta, NY 14586

### Follow the Map:

<http://www.redcrossblood.org/locations/west-henrietta-blood-donation-center>

Last year we had three operating stations active throughout the weekend running voice, CW and digital modes. Bring your radio, antenna and comfortable operating chair for a casual Field Day event. New to Ham Radio? Bring a chair and we will get you on the air.

Keep up with the latest MCARES Field Day plans at:

<http://www.monroecountyemcomm.org>

<http://www.arrl.org/field-day>

The Monroe County Amateur Radio Emergency Service, Inc. holds its meetings on the fourth Thursday of each month. Anyone interested, members and non-members, are welcome to attend. The next ARES Meeting will be held on: **Thursday, June 27, 2013, at 7:00 PM.**

Meetings are held at the **Greater Rochester Chapter of the American Red Cross HQ, 50 Prince Street, Rochester, NY 14607.** (Located behind the Rochester Auditorium Theatre, 885 Main St. E.)

**ARES NET:** Monroe County ARES/RACES meets on the air every Thursday of the month at 9:00 pm, on the 146.61 MHz (-) 110.9 Hz PL repeater. The only exception to that are nights when we hold our regular meeting, generally on the 4th Thursday of the month.

**WEB:** [www.monroecountyemcomm.org](http://www.monroecountyemcomm.org)

## RRRA News

By Bob Shewell, N2HJD

June is RRRA's Annual Meeting where we elect our club officers. Max Kessler our current VP will ascend to the office of President. The office for VP, Secretary, and Treasurer will be open for nomination and election.

No program other than the elections has been scheduled for June. If you have any ideas to supplement the June meeting let Max or I know and we will see if we can schedule it in. As usual there will be refreshments. The annual meeting will be June 21 at the Pittsford Town Hall basement at 7:30.

### Editor's Note:

Free press is available for your club! We welcome brief updates and meeting notices from all area ham clubs. Just send your input to [editor@rochesterham.org](mailto:editor@rochesterham.org). When preparing your article, please remember to keep it short, and assume that readers know nothing about your club. The article should be focused toward non-members, and not your own current members... that's what your newsletter is for! We hope all area clubs will take advantage of this opportunity to interest new members in joining their ranks.

73, -Kevin





# The Amateur's Code

Originally written by Paul M. Segal, W9EEA (1928)

## The Radio Amateur is:

<b>CONSIDERATE</b>	Never knowingly operating in such a way as to lessen the pleasure of others.
<b>LOYAL</b>	Offering loyalty, encouragement and support to other amateurs, local clubs and the American Radio Relay League, through which Amateur Radio in the United States is represented nationally and internationally.
<b>PROGRESSIVE</b>	With knowledge abreast of science, a well built and efficient station and operation beyond reproach.
<b>FRIENDLY</b>	With slow and patient operation when requested, friendly advice and counsel to the beginner, kindly assistance, co-operation and consideration for the interests of others. These are the hallmarks of the amateur spirit.
<b>BALANCED</b>	Radio is an avocation, never interfering with duties owed to family, job, school or community.
<b>PATRIOTIC</b>	With station and skill always ready for service to country and community

Visit the RARA Website!

Did you know that your club's website ([www.rochesterham.org](http://www.rochesterham.org)) offers these features and more?

- ✓ Photos of meetings & events (you might be in there!)
- ✓ Info on upcoming meetings/programs
- ✓ Rochester Hamfest information!
- ✓ Online membership & renewal
- ✓ Track and redeem your Reward points
- ✓ Public service info & sign-up
- ✓ VE testing info
- ✓ Back issues of the *Rag* in PDF
- ✓ Officer contact info
- ✓ List of past presidents (how many do you remember?)
- ✓ Online membership directory
- ✓ Order RARA logo products (hats, shirts, and mugs)
- ✓ Useful Internet links
- ✓ Ham Radio 101—tons of tutorial info, plus net & repeater listings



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[mbgulick@aol.com](mailto:mbgulick@aol.com)



# THE RARA RAG

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Refreshments Coordinator ..... Tom Austin, KA2GXX  
Webmaster ..... Frank Schramm, WB2PYD

RaRa meets on the first Friday of each month  
from September through May at 7pm. come join  
us at:

**Henrietta Fire Company No.1**  
**3129 East Henrietta Rd.**  
**Henrietta, NY 14467**

[Get Directions](#)

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### Drumlins Amateur Radio Club Ltd. (DARC)

Glen Bruemmer, KC2YGH ..... [kc2ygh@yahoo.com](mailto:kc2ygh@yahoo.com)

### Fisherman's Net Amateur Radio Club

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### Genesee Valley Amateur Radio Assn

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### Rochester Radio Repeater Association (RRRA)

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### XEROX Amateur Radio Club (XARC)

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**July Rag Deadline**  
**June 15, 2013**

